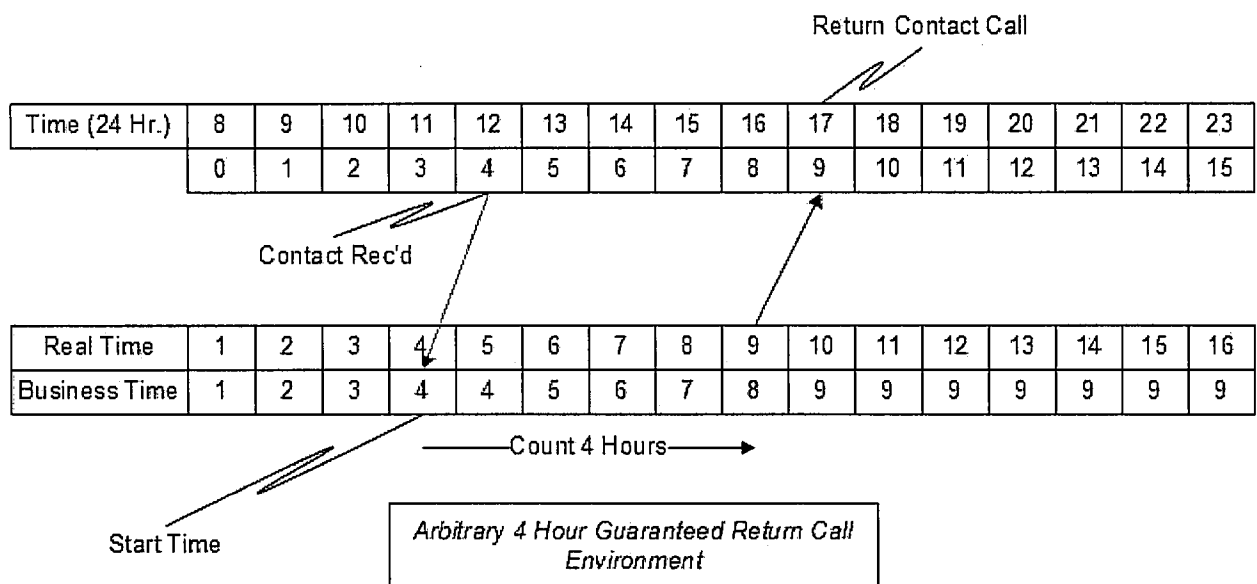
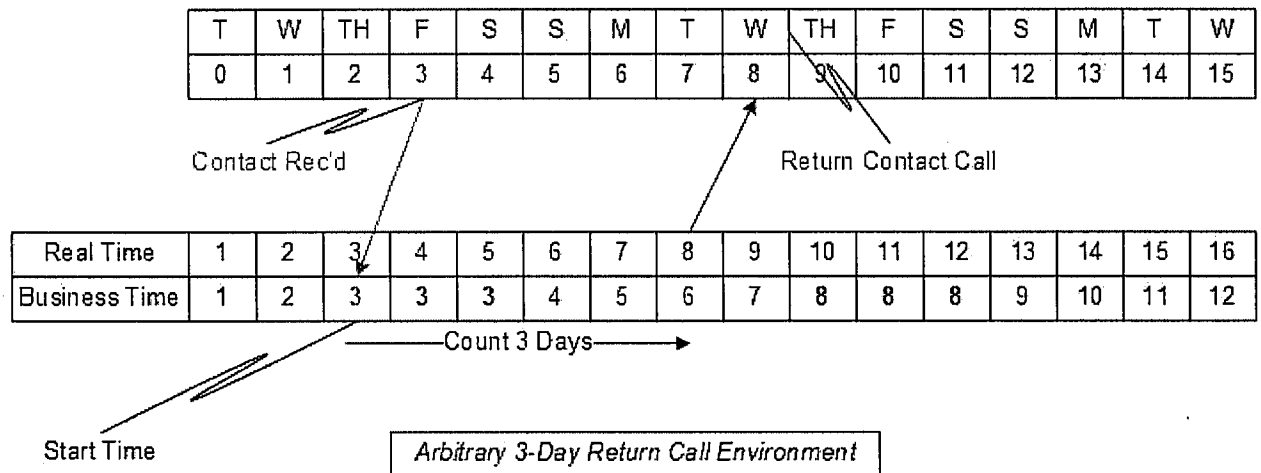


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicant would like to thank Examiners Neil Kardos and Beth Boswell for the courtesies extended to Applicants representative during the June 9 personal interview. During the personal interview, the operation of the invention was discussed, and more particularly, the operation of the invention was discussed in relation to the index-based conversion from real time to business time as detailed on pages 15-17 of the specification.

More specifically, the following example was presented to the Examiners to visually depict the operations as discussed on pages 15-17 of the specification.



Even more particularly, the specification discloses that the scheduler creates a table 340 which indexes a calendar to real time. The table 340 includes real-time entries 350, and business time entries 354 for the appropriate calendar. As illustrated in Fig. 6, the calendar for the business time entries 354 includes a first non-business time period 358, and a second non-business time period 362. The first and second non-business time periods 358, 362, are each three real time units in duration. The units may be any length of time, such as 1 minute, 10 minutes, or 30 minutes, for example. . . any calendar may be indexed with real time using such a table. In order to determine the real time at which certain calendar events will occur, the appropriate position of the business time entries 354 as located, and the corresponding real time entry 350 is obtained. For example, if the units in the table 340 correspond to 30 minute time intervals, and a work item is to be completed in 5 business hours, the corresponding entry in the business time entries 354 would be 10. The corresponding entry in the real time entries 350 would be 12, which accounts for the first 10 second non-business time periods 358, 362. The work item is entered onto the appropriate delta queue which is associated with the calendar, and all the algorithms and their resource allocation system continue to operate on the delta queue with no additional modification required.

By this amendment, Claim 31 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 31 is respectfully requested.

In addition, and at least based on the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections have been overcome, as well as the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

Regarding the rejections of Claim 40-41, in that the last amendment merely deleted subject matter from these claims, Applicants are unclear as to how they could possibly introduce new matter. Withdrawal of the objection to Claims 40 and 41 is respectfully requested.

Regarding the art based rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 in view of Burok, Applicants respectfully submit that Burok fails to teach, suggest or disclose the specific combination of features as recited in the independent claims. More specifically, Claim 1 includes the concept of a time delay. As discussed above in relation to the presented indexes, this time delay allows a conversion from business time to real time. In distinct contrast, in Burok, Burok uses a search as outlined in Figs. 7-11.

At least based on the above, and the lack of any teaching, suggestion or disclosure of the combination of claimed features, Applicants respectfully submit the pending independent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants further respectfully submit that the feature(s) recited in the dependent claims are even further patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

With all objections and rejections having been overcome, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is thus earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account number 19-1970 any fees under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby petitioned.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

Date: 18 Jan '01

By: _____

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